

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-28. Canceled

29. (New) An apparatus for supporting medical fluids for delivery to a patient during surgery, the apparatus comprising:

a clamp for removably securing the apparatus to an object to allow the object to support the apparatus, the object being immovable relative to the patient to whom the fluids are to be delivered;

an arm having a first longitudinal axis extending from a first end of the clamp;

a support connected to the arm, the support being adapted to retain a receptacle containing medical fluids;

the arm being rotatably movable within a plane about the clamp;

wherein the arm is movable along the first longitudinal axis and rotatably moveable about the first longitudinal axis such that the arm may be oriented to extend from a second end of the clamp, directly opposed to the first end of the clamp, while still supporting medical fluids;

wherein the arm comprises a first portion extending from the clamp and a second portion extending from the first portion, wherein the first portion of the arm has the first longitudinal axis and the second portion of the arm has a second longitudinal axis and wherein the first longitudinal axis is substantially perpendicular to the second longitudinal axis; and

wherein the movement of the arm along the first longitudinal axis is limited by the second portion of the arm.

30. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the first portion of the arm is rotatable about the clamp within a plane containing the first longitudinal axis of the first portion.

31. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the second portion of the arm is rotatable about the first portion of the arm.

32. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the first portion of the arm is rotatable about the first longitudinal axis with respect to the clamp.
33. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the object is an item of surgical furniture selected from a surgical table and surgical bed, upon which a patient lies.
34. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the object is a surgical table, the clamp being adapted to releasably secure to a rail extending along an edge of the surgical table.
35. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the support is adapted to retain the receptacle containing medical fluids for delivery to the patient intravenously.
36. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the support is mounted on a rod, the rod being mounted to an end of the arm, and wherein the rod is moveable with respect to the end of the arm, and wherein the rod extends telescopically within the arm.
37. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the movement of the arm along the first longitudinal axis is limited by an end of the first portion of the arm having an increased diameter.
38. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the support retains the receptacle containing medical fluids at a position on the support that is elevated relative to the patient.
39. (New) An apparatus for supporting receptacles containing medical fluids for intravenous delivery to a patient, the apparatus comprising:
- a clamp for releasably securing the apparatus to an item of furniture;
 - a first arm portion extending from a first end of the clamp, wherein the first arm portion has a first longitudinal axis;

a second arm portion extending from the first arm portion, wherein the second arm portion has a second longitudinal axis perpendicular to the first longitudinal axis; and

a receptacle support mounted on the second arm portion;

wherein the first arm portion and second arm portion are movable with respect to the clamp such that the receptacle support may be moved within a plane containing the first longitudinal axis and the second longitudinal axis;

wherein the receptacle support is mounted on a support rod, the support rod being axially mounted to an end of the second arm portion and movable with respect to the end of the second arm portion;

wherein the first arm portion is movable along the first longitudinal axis, the movement along the first longitudinal axis being limited by an end of the first arm portion having an increased diameter; and

wherein the movement of the first arm portion along the first longitudinal axis is limited by the second arm portion.

40. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 39, wherein the first arm portion is rotatable about the first longitudinal axis with respect to the clamp.

41. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 39, wherein the first arm portion is rotatable about the clamp in a plane containing the first longitudinal axis of the first arm portion.

42. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 39, wherein the second arm portion is rotatable about the first arm portion.

43. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 39, wherein the support rod extends telescopically within the second arm portion.

44. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 39, wherein the item of furniture is selected from a surgical table or surgical bed, upon which a patient lies.



Serial No.: 09/849,907
Confirmation No.: 9112
Applicant: NGUYEN, Van
Atty. Ref.: 12929.0061.NPUS00

45. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 39, wherein the item of furniture is a surgical table, the clamp being adapted to releasably secure to a rail extending along an edge of the surgical table.

46. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 39, wherein the receptacle support comprises of a hook assembly attached to an end of a support rod, wherein the hook assembly comprises a hook from which receptacles containing medical fluids may be supported and wherein the support rod is axially mounted to the second arm portion and movable with respect to the end of the second arm portion.

47. (New) An apparatus of claim 39, wherein the first arm portion is rotatably movable about the clamp and rotatably moveable about the first longitudinal axis such that the first arm portion may be oriented to extend from a second end of the clamp while supporting receptacles containing medical fluids.

48. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 46, wherein the hook assembly is elevated from the item of furniture when the support rod is extended.

IN RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION:

DRAWINGS:

In the Office Action, the Examiner had previously objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) for not including the reference sign "43". However, Figure 3 of Applicant's drawings does in fact contain this reference sign. Applicant clarified and confirmed this with the Examiner during a phone interview on April 25, 2005 and accordingly, this objection has been withdrawn.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

The Examiner has indicated that claims 23 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New independent claim 29 corresponds to claim 23 with the limitations of claims 5 and 6 while new independent claim 39 corresponds to claim 25 with the limitations of claim 17.

The remaining new dependent claims 30-38 and 40-48 correspond to previous claims but have been amended to depend from new claim 29 or 39, or other dependent claim, accordingly. As all claims now include the limitation originally found in claim 23 or 25 that the Examiner determined to be allowable, Applicant believes that the claims are now in condition for allowance and requests that the Office issue a Notice of Allowance in the next paper from the Office.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 01-2508, referencing Order No. 12929.0061.NPUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner should directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.



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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michelle C. Replogle". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Michelle C. Replogle

Patent Attorney

Reg. No. 54,394

Tel. 713.787.1535

Date: 4-25-05